

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

B 1
"A flexible appendage 10 exhibits the advantage of simplicity of construction, random bending of the appendage may reach areas otherwise inaccessible and the flexibility may reduce the likelihood of the appendage inhibiting movement of the robot as obstructions are encountered. The random nature of the bending refers to the position, direction, and/or amount of the bending which occurs in the appendage 10."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

B 2
"Referring to Fig. 1C, if desired, the appendage may have a rigid stem ~~[[25]]~~ 15 coincident the proximal end of the appendage 10. The rigid stem ~~[[25]]~~ 15 extends a relatively short distance towards the distal end of the appendage 10. The balance of the flexible appendage 10 extends laterally outwardly beyond the rigid stem 15. The rigid stem 15 provides the benefit of assuring the flexible appendage 10 will laterally extend beyond the periphery of the robot and not interfere with its movement."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

"Figures 2-3 show one embodiment of horizontally movable and downwardly biased appendage 10 for use with a mobile surface treating apparatus. In this particular embodiment, appendage 10 is integral with a sheet holder 34, in contrast to the aforementioned embodiments where the appendage 10 is not integral with the balance of the robot 20. Sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34 includes a rigid supporting element 32 having a first side and a second side, a plurality of sheet attachment positions 40, a compliant pad 30 attached to second side of said supporting element 32 and a sheet holder connector 50. Sheet holder connector 50 attaches supporting element 32 and appendage 10 to robot 20."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

B 4
“In this particular embodiment, appendage 10 may be made of a flexible material, preferably a resilient or elastic material such as rubber or cellular foam. In addition, sheet holder 34, rigid supporting element 32, compliant pad 30 or any combination thereof can also be made of a flexible material, preferably a resilient or elastic material such as rubber or cellular foam. However, it is preferable that rigid supporting element 32 is made of a more rigid material than the compliant pad 30, in order to provide more structural integrity to the sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34.”

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

B 5
“Rib 14 may be separately formed from a pervious lower membrane 18. A fluid containing reservoir ~~[[19]]~~ 16 may be placed within appendage 10 to add weight to assist in the downwardly biasing of appendage 10 and/or dispense fluids through the lower membrane 18. In one particular embodiment, a vertically extending rib 14 is molded continuously as one piece with lower membrane 18 and reservoir ~~[[19]]~~ 16 if a fluid bearing container is desired.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

B 6
“Referring back to Figs 2-3, one particular embodiment of sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34 is a substantially rigid sheet holder shown in U. S. Design Patent 409,343 issued to Kingry et al. and herein incorporated by reference. Sheet attachment receptacles are used to attach a cleaning sheet to compliant pad and/or to appendage 10 in such an embodiment. It is to be understood that appendage 10 may comprise materials which are disposable, i.e. discarded and not laundered or restored after use or materials which are suitable for cleaning and multiple uses.”

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

B 7
“The removable cleaning sheets which may be disposable dusting cloths, damp wipes, flexible brushes, or the like are commonly attached to sheet holders. One particular embodiment of both sheet holders ~~[[30]]~~ 34, sheet attachment receptacles 40 and the cleaning sheets are

B 7

commercially available from Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, Ohio sold under the Swiffer® brand name.”

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

B 8

“Figure 3 shows a particular embodiment of sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34. Sheet holder ~~[[32]]~~ 34 may include a compliant pad 30 attached to the second side of sheet holder ~~[[32]]~~ 34. A sheet holder connector 50 is attached to sheet holder ~~[[32]]~~ 34. In this particular embodiment, sheet holder ~~[[32]]~~ 34, connector 50 includes a sheet holder connector rod 52, i.e., a male rod, affixed to sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34, a spherical rod end 54 inserted in a female channel 58 mounted in the surface treating apparatus (not shown). Also, compliant elastic elements 56 may be affixed to the interior of the female channel 58. When spherical rod end 54 is inserted into the female channel 58, it displaces the compliant elastic elements 56, which serve to retain the spherical rod end 54 in the female channel 58. Sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34 is conversely detached by pulling it away from surface treating apparatus 20. It should be noted that many other attachment means known in the mechanical art may be used in lieu of a ball and socket type attachment including, but not limited to, magnets, a male extension of the robot fitting into a female channel in the sheet holder, or a threaded socket and rod. An alternative example of sheet holder connector 50 includes spherical rod end 54 on a distal end of the male rod 52, wherein spherical rod end 54 includes a permanent magnet. The surface treating apparatus 20 has a socket-mounted member 58 including a second magnet or ferromagnetic material located on its bottom side 24.”

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

B 9

“The sheet holder ~~[[32]]~~ 34 is used by folding a cleaning sheet, sufficiently long, to cover the entire sheet holder over rigid supporting element 32 sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34 and securing the folded side ends of the sheet over and into sheet attachment receptacles 40. The longitudinal remainder of the sheet is folded around appendage 10 and the folded side ends of the sheet secured into sheet attachment receptacle 40, thereby covering bottom surface 15 of appendage 10. Sheet holder ~~[[30]]~~ 34 is then attached to surface treatment apparatus 10 by plugging the male sheet holder attachment 50 into the bottom of surface treatment apparatus 10. Surface treatment apparatus 10 is placed on the surface to be treated such as a hard surface floor and propels the cleaning sheet in contact with the floor. When the robot reaches an overhanging obstacle or a

B9 corner and rotates about its vertical axis, the portion of the cleaning sheet overhanging appendage 10 sweeps and is projected outward with a downwardly bias from under surface treatment apparatus 10 by appendage 10 collecting and removing dirt and dust in corners and under overhanging obstacles where the surface treatment apparatus 10 will not fit. Appendage 10, while downwardly biased, is resilient horizontally so that it is pushed aside horizontally by contact with walls and other obstacles in contact with the floor.”
